

September 2013



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Rockingham-Strafford County FSA Updates

Rockingham-Strafford County FSA Office

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County Executive Director:
Carol Sargent
carol.sargent@nh.usda.gov

County Committee:
Richard Babcock, Chair
Judith Merrill, Vice-Chair
Mary Current, Member
Wayne Elwood, Member
Glenn Pierce, Member

Next County Committee Meeting:
Mon. Dec. 9, 2013 @ 12:30 PM

Farm Loans:
The Concord Center
10 Ferry St.
Suite 212, Box 212
Concord, NH 03301
Phone: 603-223-6003

Acting Farm Loan Manager:
Brian Kuper
brian.kuper@vt.usda.gov
Phone: 603-223-6003

County Executive Director Comments

I would like to let producers know that the Rockingham-Strafford County FSA office now has only one employee. While ideally I would like to be here for your program needs each day, there may be times when that is not possible. Please try to contact me before coming in. If I am not here to take your call, (or e-mail), please leave a message and I will get back to you promptly. Thank you in advance for your understanding.

I would like to thank Cyndy Schadler for the time she spent here with FSA as the Program Technician in the Rockingham-Strafford office. She has moved on to a full-time position within the USDA. Congratulations Cyndy!

- Carol

Direct & Counter-Cyclical Payment Program (DCP) Payments

Signup for the Direct and Counter-Cyclical Payment Program (DCP) has ended. FSA computes DCP payments using base acres and payment yields established for each farm. Eligible producers receive direct payments at rates established by statute regardless of market prices. 2013 DCP payments will be made in October using Direct Deposit.

Succession in Interest

If you have made any changes that affect your interest in base acres since you signed your last Direct and Counter-cyclical Program (DCP) contract, you must report these successions-in-interest to the county committee by Sept. 30, so that a final determination can be made on who is eligible for the program on the farm. Changes that qualify as a succession-in-interest include: a sale of land, a change of operator or producer, including an increase or decrease in the number of partners, a foreclosure, bankruptcy or involuntary loss of the farm, or a change in producer shares to reflect changes in the producer's share of the crop(s) that were originally approved on the contract. Not reporting a succession-in-interest can result in contract termination and a loss of program benefits for all producers involved.

Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP)

The Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) is a federally funded program that helps producers reduce their risk when growing food and fiber crops, specialty crops and crops for livestock feed. An eligible disaster can be any of the following:

- Damaging weather, such as: drought, freeze, hail, excessive moisture, excessive wind or hurricanes;
- An adverse natural occurrence, such as: earthquake or flood;
- A condition related to damaging weather or an adverse natural occurrence, such as: excessive heat, plant disease, volcanic smog (VOG), insect infestation; or
- Any combination of these conditions

The natural disaster must occur during the coverage period, before or during harvest and must directly affect the eligible crop. A service fee is \$250 per crop per county or a maximum of \$750 per producer per county. The fee for multi-county producers cannot exceed \$1875. Limited resource producers may request a waiver of service fees. Eligibility for NAP coverage is based on a proven history of crop production or on an expected yield for the county. Each unit has an actual production history (APH). A loss greater than 50 percent of the established APH will be covered. Payments are made at 55% of the average market price for the crop as set by the NH State FSA Committee.

The application closing dates are:

- September 1 - Fall Seeded Garlic, Ornamental Nursery, Christmas Trees, Floriculture
- September 30 - All Forage Crops
- November 20 - Perennial Crops (including blueberries, strawberries, caneberries, and more)
- December 1 - Maple Sap and Honey
- March 15 - Annually Spring Seeded Crops

With NAP coverage, the CCC-576 Notice of Loss form is used to report failed acreage and prevented planting. Timely filing a Notice of Loss is required for all crops including grasses. You must file a CCC-576 (Notice of Loss) in the FSA County Office within 15 days of the occurrence of the disaster or when losses become apparent. If filing for prevented planting, an acreage report and CCC-576 must be filed within 15 calendar days of the final planting date for the crop.

Acreage Reporting

A reminder to all producers of perennial forage, fall forage seeding and fall-seeded small grains. Acreage reports are due in the county office by November 15th.

Special Accommodations

Special accommodations will be made upon request for individuals with disabilities, vision impairment or hearing impairment. If accommodations are required, individuals should contact the county FSA office.

Dates to Remember

Sept. 30 - Sign-up Deadline for NAP: Forage Crops
Sept. 30 - DCP Succession-in-Interest Changes Deadline
Oct. 14 - Columbus Day (Office Closed)
Nov. 4 - Ballots mailed for County Committee Election
Nov. 11 - Veterans Day (Office Closed)
Nov. 15 - Acreage Report Deadline: Perennial Forage, Fall Forage Seeding, and Fall Seeded Small Grains
Nov. 20 - Sign-up Deadline for NAP: Perennial Crops

September Interest Rates

Farm Operating Loans, Direct 1.875%
including Microloans
Farm Ownership Loans, Direct 4.0%
Farm Ownership Loans, Direct, Joint Financing 5.00%
Farm Ownership, Down Payment 1.50%
Emergency Loans 2.875%
Farm Storage Facility Loans, 7 year 2.00%

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